

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force its stations to air an anti-Kerry "documentary" just days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It is a tragic warping of slanted information disguised in the name of free speech.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, listeners hear what's good for the company's profits and political influence and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard, lest all of our media stations become servants of the political party in power. Thank you.